



# *The Old Ironsides Report*

**25 June 2003**

## Robinson promoted to Major General



Staff Sgt. Gregory Polk, 2nd Brigade Combat Team master gunner, and Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, V Corps Commanding General, pin a second star to Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. Fred Robinson Jr.'s collar during promotion ceremonies at the 1st Armored Division Baghdad International Airport headquarters June 24. Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts, 1 AD PAO.

## Nighborhood Advisory Councils: democracy at the community level

By 1st Lt. Jason P. Beck, 372<sup>nd</sup> MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Despite the heat and the sparingly furnished room, they gathered. They are meeting because they want a better life that offers security and hope. These men, selected members of the Airport Village Neighborhood Advisory Council, meet regularly with coalition forces and their neighbors to chart the course for their community's future.

Much has been accomplished since the council was organized over a month ago, said Amer Fadhil Thamer, a council member and mayor's translator.

"We have fixed many things like water and electricity," said Thamer. "Day after day, life is better."

Chief Warrant Officer Andy F. Wimberley, the 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment's representative to the council, said the relationships made here have gone a long way.

"We are assisting (Iraqis) in the village to not only rebuild the village, but their desire to return to work," he said.

Several residents attending a recent meeting expressed their thanks to Wimberley for his concern and to the battalion for providing security to the village.

"We will do what has to be done to maintain security in this village," Wimberley said.

Before the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Thapit Tahir Hasan managed the Airport Village neighborhood. Now, as mayor, he listens to the residents' concerns and works to find solutions to their problems.

He not only sets forth the vision for his neighborhood, but he works with his hands helping to make necessary repairs for his residents.

One resident said he appreciated the mayor for "delivering information honestly and directly."

At the conclusion of the meeting, a few jokes are exchanged, handshakes are given, and a commitment is made to resolve the issues advanced earlier in the day.

Neighborhood Advisory Councils were formed, under direction from Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, and the Office of the Coalition Provisional Authority to provide a forum where Iraqis could raise their concerns. The councils are a mechanism where residents could actively participate in rebuilding their neighborhoods as well as their hope.

Coalition commanders invited key residents in each neighborhood to a series of preliminary meetings. These residents elected Neighborhood Advisory Councils in the nine districts of Baghdad.

Commanders and their designated representatives meet regularly with their neighborhood councils.

The intent of the program is to give Iraqis ownership of their communities and to foster peaceful, constructive institutions.

Representatives from each of the 88 Neighborhood Advisory Councils will soon select representatives to send to the next level, the District Advisory Council. From the district councils, selected representatives will be sent to the Baghdad City Council.

Eventually, this example of neighborhood cooperation will be used as a standard throughout Iraq.

"By working together, we will be able to live in peace and freedom," said Thamer.

## NEWS

### **Six British Soldiers Killed in S. Iraq**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Six British soldiers died in southern Iraq Tuesday, and an ambush on a patrol and a helicopter wounded at least eight others in one of the deadliest days for coalition forces since the fall of Saddam Hussein. The ambush was the first significant attack on the British since major combat was declared over on May 1.

### **Bush Meets Pakistan Chief at Camp David**

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush will thank Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf for valuable help in the war on terror but will press him to try to ease nuclear tensions with his neighbor India. Bush and Musharraf, on an arms-buying trip to the United States, were meeting Tuesday at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md.

### **Colleges Cheer Affirmative Action Decision**

Although the Supreme Court split on affirmative action, college administrators say the court's decisions will allow them to keep admissions policies that use race largely intact. "We are pleased the court has affirmed policies like ours that promote compelling educational interests in inclusiveness," Harvard President Lawrence H. Summers said.

### **Senate Continues to Labor on Medicare**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate turned aside an effort Tuesday to count contributions from employers toward the money seniors must spend before a government prescription drug benefit would kick in. On a 52-43 vote, the Senate killed an amendment sponsored Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., that would have aided retirees who now have some drug coverage from their former employer.

### **Chaplain's thought for the day:**

Bad moments, like good ones, tend to be grouped together.

--Edna O'Brien

There are days when we think the whole world is against us. Sometimes we let our thoughts center on a cluster of bad moments and forget the good moments. After all if it weren't for the bad moments we wouldn't recognize the good moments. Deciding to think about the good moments can allow our spirits to rise and make the bad moments fade away.

"...for he makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."  
Matthew 5:45

## BUSINESS

### **Consumer Confidence Steady in June**

NEW YORK (AP) - Consumer confidence held steady in June as growing optimism about the future offset worsening sentiments about current conditions, a private research group said Tuesday. The New York-based Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index edged back to 83.5 in June from a revised 83.6 in May, following two consecutive months of increases. Still, the reading was better than analysts projected reading of 82.

### **Dow Up 19, Nasdaq Drops 11**

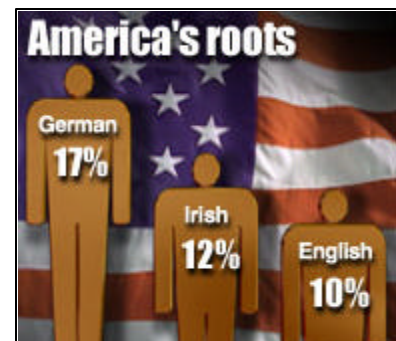
NEW YORK (AP) - A mixed batch of news - a sales warning from Advanced Micro Devices and a better-than-expected reading on consumer confidence - sent tech stocks falling Tuesday while giving a lift to blue chips. Investors were refraining from making big moves on Wall Street, anticipating that the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee on Wednesday would once again lower rates to stimulate the economy.

## SPORTS

### **Serena Williams Wins Wimbledon Opener**

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) - Serena Williams regained her Grand Slam grin Tuesday. Eager to put Paris in the past, Williams began her bid for a second consecutive Wimbledon title Tuesday by beating fellow American Jill Craybas 6-3, 6-3.

***And in other news:*** Roughly 17% of Americans can trace their roots back to Germany.



## TODAY'S WEATHER

**High: 108F/42C**

**Low: 81F/27C**

